

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO, UN

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP REPRESENTATIONS ON FAO BUDGET LEVEL
FOR 1978-1979 BIENNium

REF: (A) ROME 16127, (B) STATE 231879

SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME AGREED ON OCTOBER 5 THAT ITS MEMBERS SHOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ENABLE GROUP REPRESENTATION TO FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA BY END OF MONTH WHEN HE IS SHAPING INDICATIVE FIGURE TO PRESENT TO NOVEMBER MEETING OF FAO COUNCIL. TENTATIVE DEADLINE FOR OBTAINING GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS IS OCTOBER 19, TO ENABLE FURTHER CONSULTATION IN A GENEVA GROUP MEETING LATER THAT WEEK, PRELIMINARY TO REPRESENTATIONS TO SAOUMA IN THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK. END SUMMARY

1. MOST MEMBERS BELIEVED EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL MUST BE IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BUDGET FIGURE. SEVERAL MEMBERS MADE POINT THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM AND FAO
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COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM REST

OF BUDGET AND FROM EACH OTHER. SOME MEMBERS QUESTIONED THE CONTINUATION AS WELL AS ANY INCREASE IN SIZE OF THE TCP. IT WAS AGREED THAT GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS WOULD SEEK AN INDICATIVE CASH BUDGET FIGURE FOR FAO BIENNIAL BUDGET FOR PERIOD 1978/79 WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT GENEVA GROUP MEETING. TENTATIVE DEADLINE FOR OBTAINING GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS IS OCTOBER 19 FOR GENEVA GROUP MEETING THAT WEEK, FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER GROUP MEETING TO ALLOW FOR ROME REPRESENTATIVES TO FINE TUNE FIGURES WITH CAPITALS BEFORE REPRESENTATIONS TO SAOUMA IN THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK.

2. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD INSTRUCTIONS INDICATING CANADA WAS GOING TO TAKE A VERY HARD LINE ON FAO BUDGET AND WOULD TRY TO START WITH BASE OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CUTS IN REVISED BUDGET AND PRESENT LOW LEVEL OF ACTUALLY FILLED POSTIONS. SWEDES, PER USUAL, QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY OF CONCERTED GENEVA GROUP APPROACH. DUTCH DOUBTED THEIR GOVERNMENT WOULD PROPOSE TO THEM A CASH FIGURE. SWEDES AND NEW ZEALAND QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY OF PROPOSING A FIGURE FOR TCP AS IT WOULD CONNOTE APPROVAL OF ITS CONTINUATION. ALL GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HOLD BUDGET DOWN AND NODDED APPROVAL OF GENERAL U.S. BUDGETARY RESTRAINT AS SET FORTH BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (REFTELS A AND B).
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